conservation...

Annual Report 2004

TORONTO AND REGION
Conservation
for The Living City

...the key to the future

our vision

The quality of life on Earth is being determined in rapidly expanding city regions. Our vision is for a new kind of community, The Living City, where human settlement can flourish forever as part of nature's beauty and diversity.

our mission

Our mission is to work with our partners to ensure that The Living City is built upon a natural foundation of healthy rivers and shorelines, greenspace and biodiversity, and sustainable communities.

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message from the Chair

Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) had many successes in 2004, due in no small part to our partnerships with federal, provincial and municipal agencies, volunteers, consultants, and both the development and local communities.

One critical relationship that progressed in 2004 was with the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation (TWRC), a tri-level government agency established to revitalize Toronto's waterfront. Due to TRCA's past success with environmental restoration on the waterfront, TWRC has recognized TRCA as a valuable partner in the immense task ahead of them. In this regard, TRCA actively participated in the waterfront projects during 2004 and has set the stage to deliver programs for TWRC amounting to roughly $85 million in 2005.

Another successful partnership is with the Earth Rangers Foundation. In 2004, Earth Rangers opened their animal rehabilitation centre at the Kortright Centre for Conservation, in what they have constructed to be one of the most environmentally sustainable buildings in the Toronto region. This building is the first such structure in TRCA's plan for The Living City Centre Campus at the Kortright Centre for Conservation and the surrounding area. The campus will be a model for sustainable community design and is TRCA's vision for future development in the Toronto region.

A multitude of other initiatives were implemented by TRCA in 2004, including: restoration projects; science-based watershed planning projects; a more streamlined development review process; community awareness and education programs of the environmental issues in the Toronto region; recreation programs; and much more. These initiatives are in partnership with our municipal funding partners: City of Toronto, regional municipalities of Durham, Peel and York, Town of Mono and the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio. The important work accomplished by TRCA in 2004 would not be possible without their support.

Due to the magnitude of TRCA's portfolio of environmental work, a strategic shift is occurring in the structure of the organization, allowing us to more effectively meet the core mandate of our company, as well as to provide new critical environmental programs to make the Toronto region a sustainable urban region — The Living City. The framework for a new management structure was approved in 2004, thereby creating a more appropriate distribution of responsibilities to meet the organizations needs. Ultimately, staff will be able to better focus on programs and forge new financial and project based relationships. Further development of such partnerships are key to the continued and growing success of TRCA.

We can attribute the tremendous success of all of this critical environmental work to these partnerships and the extremely dedicated and knowledgeable staff at TRCA. On behalf of the members of TRCA, I would personally like to thank the staff and all of the groups that have assisted us towards meeting our vision for The Living City.

Dick O'Brien

message from the CAO

It is time for an environmental renaissance in the Toronto region. The Living City vision provides the context for this rediscovery of nature by outlining programs that will protect our vital water resources, maintain reasonable biodiversity and begin to prepare us for the reality of energy sources for our future. In 2004, the beginning of that renaissance began to take shape. It is imperative that we continue to crystalize this vision and pursue it with great focus and energy.

A sustainable city region must have ample greenspaces and healthy natural landscapes that people can enjoy close to home. While there is a great need for all kinds of new and expanded infrastructure to service the large and rapidly growing population in the Toronto region, it is essential that we also set aside and maintain a robust greenspace system. A high quality of life will attract and retain the energetic and creative people from all over the world, upon whom a thriving economy depends. A healthy natural system that protects and celebrates the natural wonders that are unique to this part of Earth is the foundation for our quality of life.

In 2004, TRCA was fortunate to be a part of some major new initiatives to strengthen the greenspace system for the future. Announcements of major federal assistance for continuing development of Tommy Thompson Park as part of the new development of Lake Ontario Park launched an exciting new period of waterfront park creation. The beginning of detailed planning for the new 1,000 acre Oak Ridges Corridor Park represented the achievement of an objective established in 1989 by TRCA as set out in the Greenspace Strategy of that time. The transfer of 3,249 acres of land by the province, to TRCA, as a major addition to the Rouge Park enabled detailed planning to start for the Little Rouge corridor which will be the healthiest continuous environmental linkage between Lake Ontario and the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM). Establishing an office within Downsview Park positioned TRCA for an important role within the planning and development of this critical new urban park and sustainable community. Planning for a targeted natural heritage system within TRCA received major support from the Province of Ontario with the announcement of the Greenbelt Plan and strengthening of the Provincial Policy Statement.

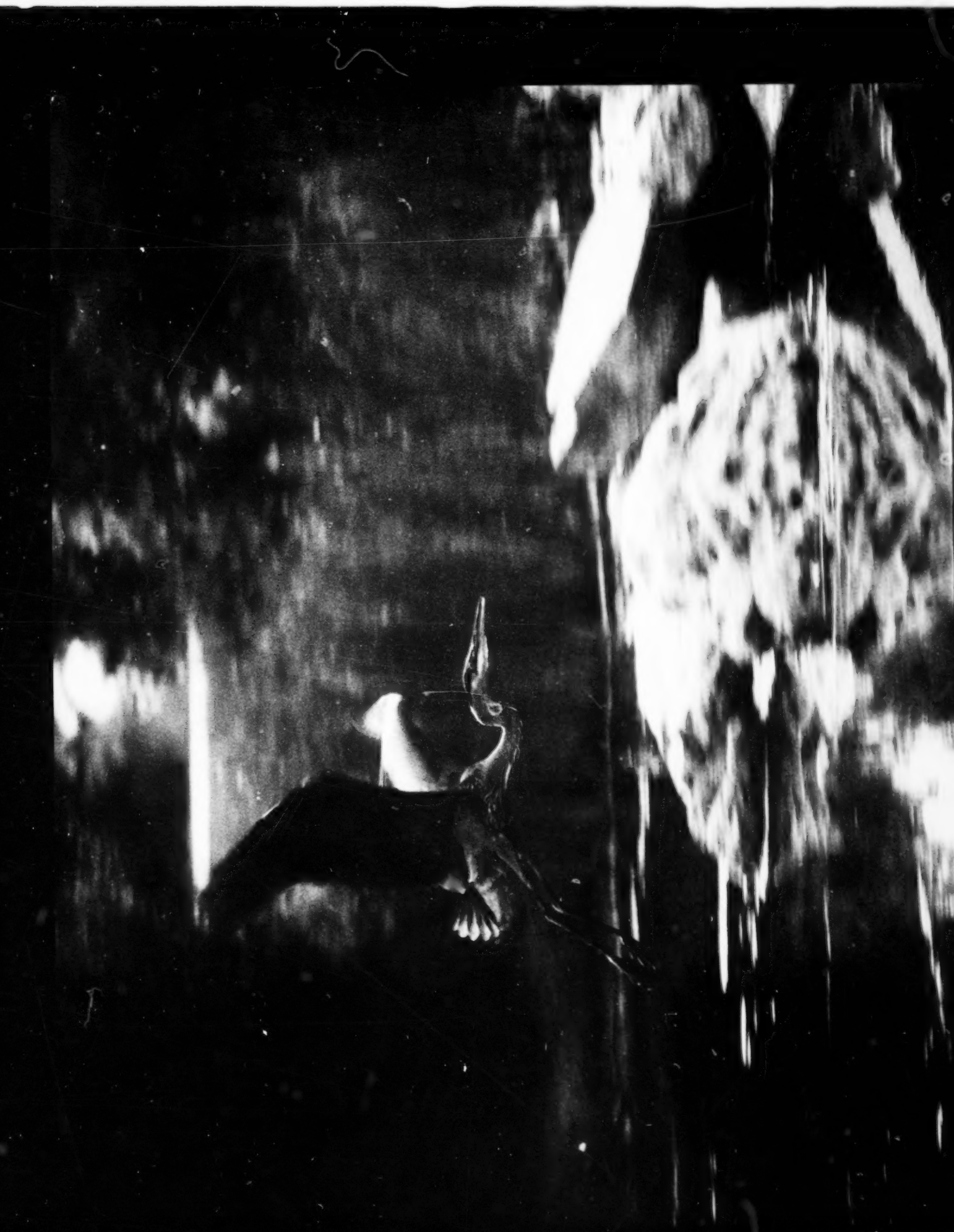
The most important new water management initiative in over 50 years began in 2004. The decision by the Province of Ontario to require source water protection plans to be developed on a watershed basis is the most progressive action since the creation of conservation authorities in 1946.

The Living City programs addressing energy efficiency became well established in 2004. TRCA's efforts to promote the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) building rating system have begun to move green building design into the main stream of the development industry. Much remains to be done before community energy planning becomes the norm, but an important transition in the city building process has begun.

The renaissance has begun. Stay tuned.

Brian Denney

Brian Denney



healthy rivers and shorelines

The lifeblood of our city region

Left: Great Blue Heron.

■ 2004 HIGHLIGHTS ■

- Received the National River Conservation Award in recognition for our efforts in the Humber River watershed
- A provincial contribution of $13 million was given to conservation authorities for source protection planning
- Juvenile walleye were found at the mouth of the Don River, suggesting that early reforestation along the Toronto waterfront is showing success
- Formed a significant partnership between TRCA and TWRC to advance waterfront regeneration
- Updated 75 per cent of our flood plain mapping

■ HEALTHY WATERSHEDS = HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Protecting our drinking water sources is a critical part of ensuring healthy communities. A renewed interest in the environment from businesses and all levels of government shows that we are moving into a new era of conservation. The provincial contribution of $13 million to assist conservation authorities and their partners to protect drinking water is just one example.

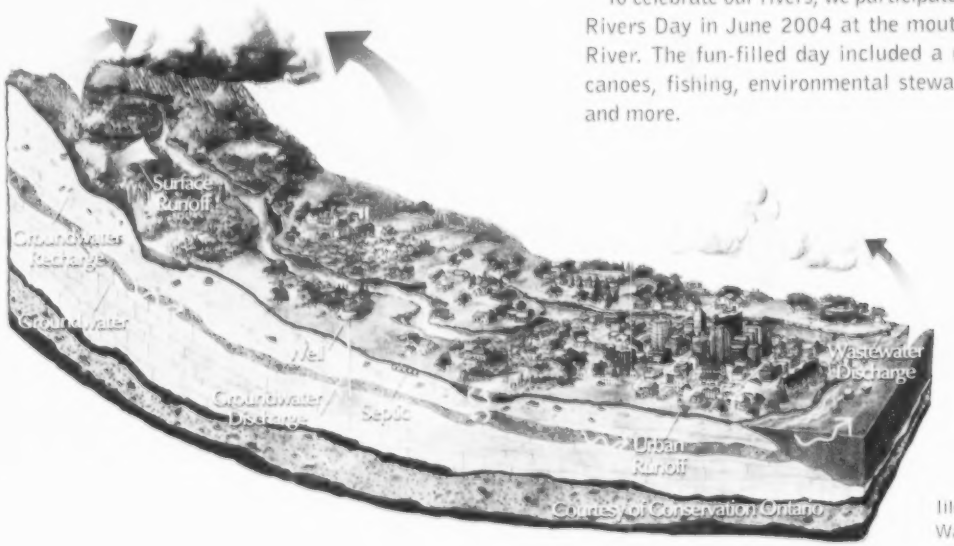
In 2004, TRCA continued looking at our watersheds collectively. Understanding the importance of this system from the ORM to the Lake Ontario waterfront allows us to better address larger issues like population growth, transportation, protection of wildlife habitat and water quality.

Unique pressures also face each of our nine watersheds which we can address in our individual watershed plans. Following the ORM Management Plan's direction to complete all watershed plans by 2007, TRCA began updating the Rouge River and Humber River existing strategies. *A Watershed Plan for Duffins Creek and Carruthers Creek* was the first to meet the ORM requirements. It is now the first to initiate a drinking water source protection plan. We also published a draft *State of the Rouge River Watershed Report*. Funding for this work is supported by our member municipalities.

TRCA is committed to using volunteer task forces to accomplish our work and to help achieve our vision for The Living City — and we're seeing the results. These task forces magnify our messages, promote our work and comment on policy. Many of our stakeholders incorporate our comments into their recommendations and programs. It is these people that help us reach out to the community where action is implemented on the ground.

In June 2004, TRCA received the National River Conservation Award from the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board (CHRB) to recognize our efforts in the Humber River watershed. The award is presented every 10 years to a public agency that has made an outstanding contribution to river conservation in Canada over the past decade.

To celebrate our rivers, we participated in the Canadian Rivers Day in June 2004 at the mouth of the Humber River. The fun-filled day included a race of voyageur canoes, fishing, environmental stewardship education and more.



Illustrated Watershed

WATERSHED HIGHLIGHTS

Waterfront

- A major partnership between TRCA and TWRC was formed to accelerate the regeneration of the waterfront. TRCA contributed to the Central Waterfront Public Spaces Framework and plans for the West Don Lands, East Bayfront and Commissioners Park Precinct.
- Implementation of the $16 million Port Union Project continued. Funded by TWRC, the project will provide shoreline regeneration and public access improvements on 3.6 kilometres of waterfront from Highland Creek to Rouge River. It will include a key public feature at the foot of Port Union Road and significant aquatic and terrestrial habitat improvements. In 2004, we built and protected one kilometre of shoreline from Chesterton Shores to Highland Creek.
- We received the federal and provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) approval for the Mimico Waterfront Linear Park. The project will include improvements to 1.1 kilometres of waterfront from Humber Bay Park West to Norris Crescent, estimated at $6.5 million.
- The federal government announced funding of $8 million through TWRC to implement the Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan. This urban wilderness park will provide significant wetland and upland habitat, public access through trails and environmental interpretation.
- A Web site (www.cityofpickering.com/fbwrp) was launched to support the Frenchman's Bay Watershed Rehabilitation Project. Initiated in 1998, this project engages more than 1,000 volunteers each year to plant native trees and shrubs, clean up shorelines, create wildlife habitat and monitor their success.

Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks

- The Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watersheds Coalition (EMCWC) completed their second successful year of implementing *Greening Our Watersheds: Revitalization Strategies of Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks.* Over 12,000 people participated in 32 partnership events. Together we established 300 linear metres of riparian zone, planted more than 8,000 trees and shrubs, and collected two tonnes of garbage.
- A generous $252,700 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation kick started the Malton Community Environmental Stewardship Project reaching more than 2,000 Malton residents and inspiring neighbourhood youth with educational programs including a baby snapping turtle rescue in Etobicoke Creek.
- We identified spills as a major issue impacting water quality and habitat. The EMCWC launched the Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan (RAP) spills management initiative. Approximately 90 people attended a first-of-its-kind workshop where they discussed current methods of managing spills, identified gaps in current practice and recommended spills prevention and management actions.
- The Peel Children's Water Festival at Heart Lake Conservation Area attracted over 9,000 participants including students, teachers and the public.

Humber River

- We initiated revisions to *Legacy: a Strategy for a Healthy Humber (1997).* Efforts focused on consultations with municipal partners to determine new information sources, discuss needs and opportunities, and confirm future land use planning scenarios that will be modelled to determine watershed responses, strategic management actions and priorities.

Left: Mallard duck. Right, top to bottom: tree planting at Birkdale Ravine; Humber River; Port Union Project.

- The Humber Watershed Alliance commenced their third term (2004–2006). They contributed to the review of EAs and new policy documents such as the Greenbelt Plan advocating for strong environmental protection. They helped organize more than 35 events. Participants helped plant 26,000 trees and shrubs.
- Through the Centreville Creek Environmental Stewardship Program, Trout Unlimited Canada – Humber River Chapter in partnership with TRCA, initiated a project to decommission Taylor Pond, an online pond located at the Albion Hills Conservation Area. This project has restored the creek's natural channel through the drained pond bottom, had a cooling impact on the waters of Centreville Creek and allowed resident fish passage.
- We completed signature projects such as a 3.4 hectare wetland complex, three kilometres of trail and a pedestrian bridge in the William Granger Greenway (Woodbridge). The Cold Creek Stewardship Committee constructed six kilometres of trail, plus signage, in King Township. Heritage interpretation and installation of an information kiosk commemorating the historic hamlet of Glasgow on the banks of the Humber were implemented at the Bolton Community Action Site.
- We collected more evidence supporting the designation of the Humber River as a Canadian Heritage River. We registered 190 archaeological sites with the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, and listed 515 heritage sites with historical societies or municipalities of which 16 are now officially designated and protected.
- We initiated an urban organic farm in partnership with the City of Toronto. To date we have completed fences, gates, storage facilities, water connections and initial field preparation. When fully operational, this pilot project will provide local produce, skills training for youth and environmental education.

Left, top to bottom: Paddle the Don; Duffins Creek; Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project. Right: Albion Hills Conservation Area.

Don River

- We approved the membership of the fourth three-year term of the Don Watershed Regeneration Council (Don Council). Strong leadership by the Don Council advanced watershed management goals which address a diverse range of issues including source protection planning, greenbelt legislation and flood protection west of the lower Don River, to name a few.
- The Richmond Hill Mill Pond Splash and Paddle the Don are two successful annual community events. Participation in the Paddle the Don Corporate Canoe Challenge tripled, with over $21,000 raised to support environmental projects in the Don watershed.
- The Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project aims to remove the risk of flooding to 210 hectares of land in downtown Toronto, west of the lower Don River. The project design was developed in 2004, and we anticipate provincial and federal EA approvals in early 2005. Once complete in 2007, the project EA and project implementation costs will total approximately $33 million.
- We installed 1,000 metres of new trail and a small wetland feature at the midpoint of the Bartley Smith Greenway (BSG). With the help of 500 volunteers, 2,500 native trees and shrubs were planted. The Vaughan Chamber of Commerce raised $15,000 from their corporate planting over a three-year period. A BSG Web site was successfully launched.
- Enhanced ecological function at the mouth of the Don River is the goal of the individual EA together with the removal of the risk of flooding to 230 hectares of land in the Port Lands. The project was placed on hold in 2004. In 2005, the federal and provincial EA processes will be initiated to determine the options to meet the project objectives. At a cost of $1.8 million the EA is expected to be completed in 2007. Juvenile walleye, which don't stray far from the location where they hatched, were found at the mouth of the lower Don — suggesting that early reforestation along the Toronto waterfront is showing success.

Rouge River and Rouge Park

- The Province of Ontario donated over 3,400 acres of land for Rouge Park purposes, an area six times the size of the Toronto Islands. This is the largest donation of provincial lands for ecological use. The lands are a mix of rural agricultural and natural areas, and include the remains of a 300-year-old Seneca village designated as a National Historic Site.
- Rouge Park received the rare Carolinian Canada designation in October 2004. A plaque now placed at Glen Eagles Vista in Toronto celebrates the park's status as one of 38 critical sites and the only site in the Toronto area.
- To improve the visitor experience to Rouge Park, we created a new visitor guide and trail map. We also improved signage on over 12 kilometres of hiking trails.
- Over $200,000 of start-up funding was provided to community groups for 16 ecological and cultural heritage restoration projects within the Rouge watershed. These innovative projects included habitat restoration for rare fish in Toronto and outreach education to urban landowners in Markham.
- Volunteers of all ages participated in the annual Winter Bird Count. They recorded over 3,000 individual birds from 53 species, including the provincially vulnerable great grey owl and the peregrine falcon.
- Rouge Park funded a broad range of private land stewardship initiatives developed to engage farm and non-farm clients by providing educational, financial and technical resources to adopt beneficial management practices.

Highland Creek

- The Highland Creek Environmental Stewardship Program engaged Scarborough residents in cleaning up local parks, planting trees and shrubs and installing wildlife boxes. The program exceeded its deliverables with the help of a dedicated steering committee and a core group of volunteers.
- The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup Community Cleanup Challenge resulted in six events which took place during one week in the Highland Creek watershed alone! This event is a true partnership — overall, approximately 250 volunteers collected over 4,500 kilograms of garbage!
- Restoration work continued at Brimley Woods, Knob Hill and Birkdale Ravine parks. Program partners and participants planted a total of 700 trees and shrubs at these community action sites.

Duffins and Carruthers Creeks

- In partnership with the regional municipalities of Durham and York and the City of Pickering, TRCA launched a drinking water source protection plan. The plan will have several components, including identifying threats to drinking water supplies, examining ways to protect drinking water sources, developing watershed protocols for reviewing permits to take water, identifying water conservation opportunities and more.
- We are working closely with area municipalities and key stakeholders on watershed trail development. Collectively, we have advanced trail planning and trail improvements on the Seaton Trail and proposed a Trans Canada Trail link from the waterfront to the ORM. As well, we created new trailheads for Glen Major in the Township of Uxbridge and for local trails in the City of Pickering and the Town of Ajax.
- Working in close partnership with watershed communities and stakeholders, we have advanced about 80 per cent of the recommendations in the 2003 *A Watershed Plan for Duffins Creek and Carruthers Creek*.
- We worked with the Town of Ajax and local residents to address growing concerns around the presence of beaver and their alterations to the Carruthers Creek valley corridor. We undertook stewardship initiatives including workshops, public education and outreach, as well as hands-on land management activities for residents and town staff to address the public's concerns, and to promote watershed health in Carruthers Creek.

WATER MANAGEMENT

In 2004, TRCA made great strides in advancing our understanding of surface water and groundwater quantity and quality, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, and the interrelationships among these disciplines. This knowledge helps us and our partners make better informed decisions to protect the environment.

The Living City vision has been adopted as an important strategic direction for implementing the **Toronto and Region RAP**. This indicates support from Environment Canada and the Ministry of the Environment for our comprehensive approach to achieving a sustainable Toronto region. TRCA continues to coordinate the RAP Program which supports science and technology research oriented activities that have broad application within the region. Some RAP initiatives in 2004 included terrestrial natural heritage projects, new technologies related to sustainability such as porous pavement and green roof design, and environmental monitoring.

Climate change was a hot topic as a result of the Kyoto Protocol and we began looking at ways to deal with future stresses associated with a changing climate. We monitored the quantity and quality of water in our rivers, creeks and aquifers, and the plant and wildlife communities that make up our natural heritage system. We also partnered with Environment Canada to help predict how our watershed systems will respond to future climate scenarios. In 2005, we will establish climate change predictive models that will help us adapt our management programs to meet these new challenges.

Climate change in Southern Ontario suggests more frequent extreme storm events and greater risk of flooding. In 2004, TRCA began updating our flood control dam operations to new provincial operating standards, required by the new Emergency Management Act. We completed dam safety studies for G. Ross Lord and Claireville dams and started implementing high priority recommendations. This includes the installation of automated dam operation controls that enable the dams to be operated remotely. We also installed surveillance cameras at Claireville Dam which enable dam operators to monitor water levels in real time and to ensure that the dams are operating properly. These changes will greatly improve the efficiency of our **flood warning and forecasting program** that keeps our municipal partners, media, police and school boards advised of flood risks. We also updated 75 per cent of our flood plain mapping and now have this information available in digital format, providing better access and distribution. Additionally, more than 300 flood and erosion control structures were inspected and priorities were set for maintenance projects. Maintenance projects that were carried out in 2004 were Taylor Creek Park, East Don Parklands, Etobicoke Creek Park and Wilket Creek Park, and emergency shoreline stabilization was carried out at Gibraltar Point on the Toronto Islands. The final phase of shoreline protection works along the Fishleigh Drive sector of the Scarborough Bluffs was completed, eliminating further risk to properties due to wave action.

Climate change may also mean that droughts will occur more often and for longer periods of time, thus affecting water levels. We assisted Conservation Ontario in developing an overall position on the management of water takings in the province. With the province's new Permit to Take Water Regulation, conservation authorities and municipalities must now be notified, and consulted, prior to a permit being issued. This process will provide more opportunities to incorporate our watershed knowledge into water management decisions.

In 2004, we expanded our program that involves **volunteers in monitoring** over 50 indicator plant and animal species each year. We forged new partnerships with the University of Guelph and Ryerson University to investigate the performance of construction sediment control ponds. These ponds prevent sediment from construction sites from entering our rivers, creeks and wetlands by stormwater runoff. Our goal is to translate the study results into new and improved standards for the design of sediment controls on construction sites.

Watershed Monitoring and Reporting

Watershed monitoring activities help us to develop a critical understanding of the ecological processes associated with our regional watersheds, waterfront and project sites. They also allow us to assess baseline conditions and changes in environmental health over time. In 2004, TRCA staff monitored environmental health through selected indicators at more than 350 sites within our nine watersheds and at 110 sites along the Toronto waterfront. Using standardized protocols, we tracked aquatic habitat and species, water quality, sediment quality, groundwater, fluvial geomorphology, stream flow and precipitation. We will incorporate the data collected through these activities into fish management plans, watershed plans, water quality models and watershed report cards.

Many monitoring projects must meet provincial and federal regulatory requirements before proceeding. The data collected is shared with government and academic partners for use in other studies and research. Some key waterfront projects carried out in 2004 include Keating Channel environmental monitoring, lower Don River naturalization, Port Union Waterfront Park compliance monitoring, Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan implementation and many other projects.

In 2004, we constructed a new lab facility at Boyd Field Centre to assist with processing and identifying invertebrates and fish samples. This expansion brings a much needed in-house service and expertise to TRCA that will save money and speed up the data analysis process. The West Nile virus assessment was just one of many projects carried out in the lab. Over the 2004 season, 500 samples of mosquito larvae were examined in the Boyd lab. Results of these assessments are being used to develop guidelines for best management practices for stormwater facilities across Ontario.

We fostered key partnerships with the regions of York, Peel, Durham and the City of Toronto. Monitoring activities were undertaken in conjunction with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, TWRC, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), Ontario Ministry of the Environment, City of Mississauga, University of Toronto, York University, Citizens Environment Watch, Rouge Valley Conservation Centre and watershed residents. Using our monitoring information we will review our understanding of our natural systems and seek to achieve net gains in the future for all.

2004 marked the beginning of what we feel is a new era of conservation. We need to keep this momentum going as we prepare for the important work that is yet to be done.

Right, top to bottom: watershed monitoring; Trans Canada Trail in the Duffins Creek watershed; Peel Children's Water Festival at Heart Lake Conservation Area.

regional biodiversity

Inspiration for a greener, healthier Toronto region

Left: Monarch butterflies on New England asters.

2004 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Province of Ontario donated 3,249 acres of land to TRCA for Rouge Park purposes
- Planted 138,300 native trees and shrubs within our watersheds
- Defined natural system corridors and connections for the Seaton community
- Negotiated environmental improvements at Ontario Municipal Board hearings
- Released the draft Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy

Conservation Lands

As environmental stewards of our land, TRCA continues to acquire natural heritage and hazard lands. These acquisitions are essential to achieving a healthy environment and sustainable communities.

We are inspired by the growing support from all levels of government. In May 2004, the Province of Ontario completed the transfer of 3,249 acres of Rouge Park lands to TRCA. This nearly doubles our land ownership within the Rouge River watershed. The transfer of these lands represents the single largest acquisition involving TRCA. In partnership with Rouge Park, TRCA will manage the rental portfolio, which will provide a sustainable revenue stream to help with the stewardship of the Rouge River watershed. In addition, funding provided by the provincial Environmental Land Acquisition Program helped TRCA acquire lands within the Rouge River watershed.

Transport Canada announced that 7,500 acres of their land holdings would be designated as protected greenspace. Of this land designation, 2,200 acres fall within Rouge Park. Securing this amount of land in the Rouge River watershed is very significant for the region because it provides a permanently protected, publicly owned green corridor that stretches from Lake Ontario to the ORM.

Further federal support is received through Environment Canada's Ecogift Program, which provides the framework for conservation easements and land donations to conservation authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). As a recipient agency, TRCA has completed nine donations under this program, including two conservation easements in the Duffins Creek watershed, in 2004.

Municipalities are also stepping up to the challenge of protecting greenspace for our future. They have created land securement programs to assist TRCA. As well, they support the stewardship of TRCA lands through directly managing almost 12,000 acres.

In 2004, TRCA acquired 3,467 acres of environmentally important land, bringing the total amount of greenspace under our ownership to 38,221 acres of land in the Toronto region.

TRCA LAND OWNERSHIP BY GEOGRAPHIC FEATURE
9,683 acres within the Oak Ridges Moraine
1,232 acres within the Niagara Escarpment
3,324 acres along the Lake Ontario shoreline
23,982 within watershed valley corridors

Terrestrial Natural Heritage

In order to meet TRCA's targets for regional biodiversity, the Toronto region should consist of at least 30 per cent natural cover (forests and wetlands), distributed in a way that enhances habitat quality — including the size, shape and connectivity of habitats — and maximizes ecosystem services. Currently the Toronto region has 17 per cent natural cover, and most of this natural cover is of insufficient quality and is poorly distributed throughout the jurisdiction. To help us achieve the net environmental improvement needed, we have developed the Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy (TNHSS). This new strategy uses Geographic Information System based modelling and an extensive database on species and habitats to identify lands that should be protected and restored to improve the integrity of the terrestrial natural system. In 2004, TRCA presented the draft TNHSS to our municipal partners and other stakeholders and received wide support for this progressive approach. In 2005, the strategy will be finalized with the inputs received from our stakeholders and TRCA will begin working with each municipality to implement the plan.

Raising further concern of the degradation of our natural environment is the increase of invasive species

that we've seen over the last few years. Following the discovery of a single grass carp in the Don River in late 2003, TRCA worked closely with the OMNR and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to conduct an aggressive surveillance program to determine if there were more of these fish in the wild, and thus far there have been no new finds. TRCA also monitored our rivers and streams for the rusty crayfish which were found in Duffins Creek, the Rouge River and the Humber River. These nasty invaders have significant effects on the biodiversity of our watercourses. Another example is the discovery of the Asian Long-horned Beetle, an invasive species which is of enormous threat to the hardwood forest in eastern Canada. In 2004, more than 15,000 trees were removed in an effort to destroy the beetle. TRCA continues to work closely with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and other partners on the survey efforts and eradication of this pest.

Reforestation and Regeneration

To help us achieve our natural heritage goals, TRCA planted 138,300 native trees and shrubs within our watersheds in 2004. All plants were propagated from locally collected seed sources. An additional 12,448 plants were supplied to other conservation authorities in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and our partnering NGOs. From 2001 to 2004, TRCA planted 718,052 native trees and shrubs, exceeding our four-year goal of 700,000.

One of our key programs is the Private Land Tree and Shrub Planting Program which saw 48 landowners participate in 2004, resulting in the reforestation and afforestation of 12.5 hectares of private land with native trees, wildlife shrubs and seedlings. The program is designed to expand forest cover, establish and enhance wildlife corridor linkages and increase riparian cover, and would not be possible without the support from our many partners.

The Habitat Implementation Plan (HIP) is another important initiative designed to guide in-the-ground works and stewardship projects to identify suitable areas for development. Habitat enhancement opportunities are prioritized according to a series of standard site level criteria. In 2004, we completed public land assessments in the Duffins and Carruthers Creek watersheds, created wetlands and installed critical habitat for wildlife at Cold Creek Conservation Area, among other initiatives.

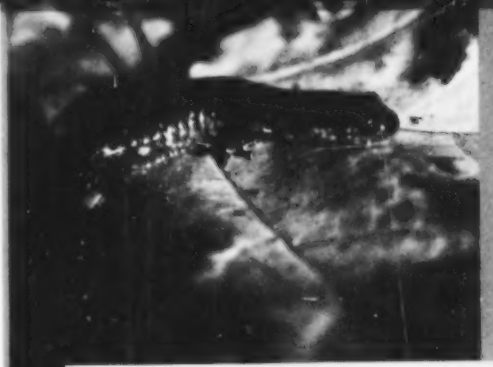
While TRCA is a leader in tree planting within our jurisdiction, other organizations and governments also carry out tree planting initiatives through programs such as the Forest 20/20 Demonstration Program, led by the federal government.

A $325,000 grant from the OMNR was administered by TRCA on behalf of its community partners to implement seven habitat creation projects in Durham Region. These projects included public space naturalization and habitat enhancements of two Provincially Significant Wetlands along the Durham waterfront. The provincial funds were also used to assist private landowners with reforestation and forest management projects including the development of forest inventories and the removal of invasive species.

Development Services

Provincial planning reform introduced significant changes and implications for environmental planning. We responded to new provincial planning direction, set new standards and advanced environmental policy for long-term sustainable community building.

Increased development in the upper reaches of our watersheds has created more environmental challenges. We continue to protect small streams, tributaries and groundwater as greater issues arise; this includes work on the Generic Regulation for May 1, 2006 (replaces *Ontario Regulation 158*). We worked on refining the City of Toronto Official Plan natural heritage policies and



Right, top to bottom: Blue spotted salamander; Beare Road, south of Steeles Avenue; young tree planters.

advanced protection through Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) decisions.

Fee changes allowed us to hire new staff to handle the increase of planning applications and development reviews. Greater complexity of EAs required negotiation with our partners for more financial support to address the large planning and technical issues around EAs, and to help our municipal partners improve service delivery, technical coordination and field review.

Planning Applications Processed	1,000
Development Permit Applications Received and Processed	443
Development Permit Applications Issued	405
Solicitor/Realty Inquiries	1,405
Property Clearances	112
Violations Issued	91

Provincial policy introduced included the draft Greenbelt Plan and Places to Grow, both directly affecting our watersheds. We commented on each plan and provided technical and policy input. We examined environmental implications for all watershed municipalities, advising municipal partners on implications of new legislation.

Based on provincial direction to plan the Seaton community, we worked to define a natural system within the context of developable areas, in what is anticipated to be a model community. Our contribution to the planning of Seaton sets out corridors and connections for the natural system, which were field verified, as part of the policy framework and implementation plan for the lands identified for development. This work will set an example of the desired approach to natural system management on future community development within TRCA's jurisdiction.

Participating in OMB hearings is a significant part of our business in which we aim to negotiate for environmental improvements with the help of our municipalities. In 2004, we were successful in a hearing decision to protect additional natural features in the Dreamworks development, City of Vaughan, as well as successful negotiation for wetland protection in Senator Homes, City of Brampton. Out of 15 OMB negotiations and hearings conducted in 2004, three required TRCA staff involvement to defend policies of the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan* and associated guidelines. All hearing wins gave increased status to the draft ORM guidelines listing criteria and tests that must be met to determine a Key Natural Heritage Feature and thus afforded full protection.

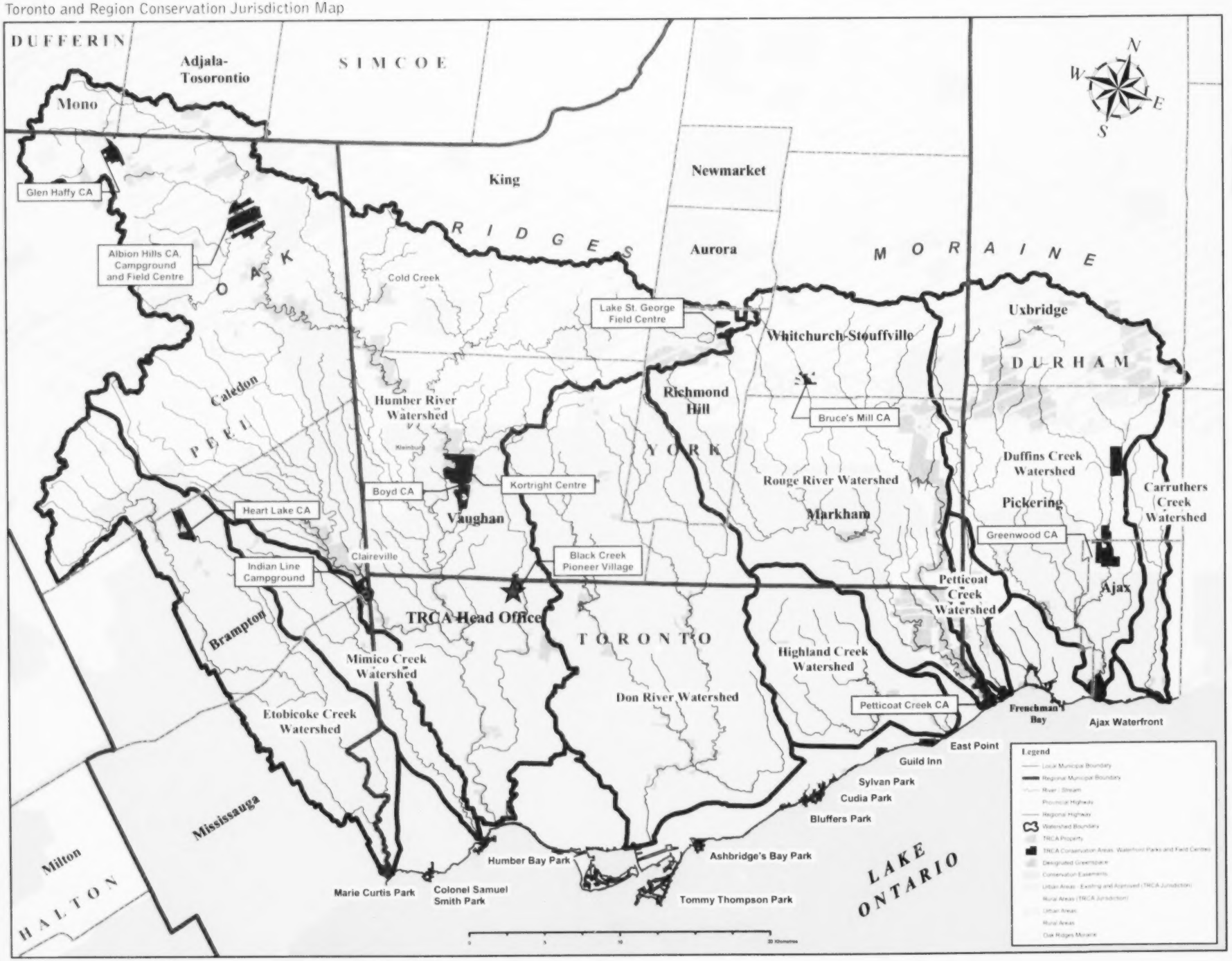
Dialogue with our municipal partners, provincial agencies, NGOs and the development community included planning and development implications related to the TNHSS. We also discussed with our municipal partners a generic watershed policy framework to address the needs of our watershed plans and municipal policy integration.

The Rouge Park North Management Plan moved from planning to policy. Together with the Town of Markham, we began fine-tuning the implementation through Official Plan Amendment. We also formed a steering committee to prepare a Terms of Reference for the *Little Rouge Corridor Management Plan*. The study will be initiated in spring 2005.

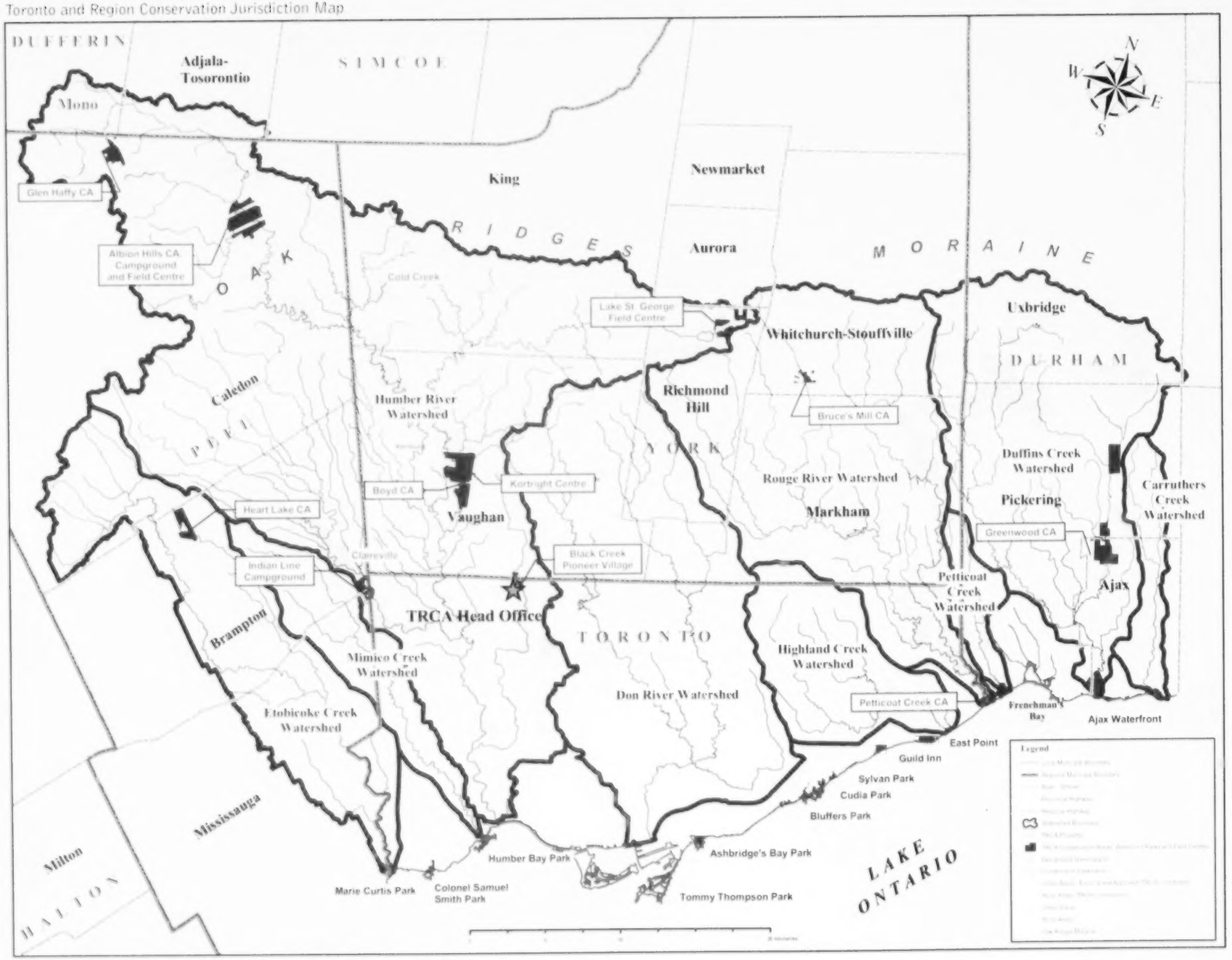
In partnership with the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition and the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, we participated in the development of comprehensive stewardship and land securement strategies for the ORM. These accomplishments gave permanent protection to 75 hectares of land through four conservation easements and eight land acquisitions by TRCA.

Left, top to bottom: Morningside Heights before and after; Oak Ridges Moraine; May-apple.

Toronto and Region Conservation Jurisdiction Map



Toronto and Region Conservation Jurisdiction Map



sustainable communities

Our environment comes alive

Left: naturalization at Husky Injection Molding Systems Limited plant.

2004 HIGHLIGHTS

- Installed a biowall at TRCA's head office to improve indoor air quality while reducing energy costs
- Through the Mayors' Megawatt Challenge, 2,617,000 kW-h of electricity was saved
- Engaged more than 20,000 people in clean-ups, tree plantings and other stewardship activities
- Reached over 193,000 participants through our education programs
- Over 500,000 people enjoyed our conservation parks

The Living City

We're taking a STEP in the right direction toward our vision for The Living City. Our Sustainable Technologies Evaluation Program (STEP) tests new technologies that help to reduce negative impacts of human activities and urban development on water, air and climate. Here are some highlights:

- We constructed a permeable pavement test site on a parking lot at Seneca College, King Campus. Among several companies that donated material, Seneca College provided a windmill to power monitoring equipment that was installed under the parking lot. This project will allow us to test the performance of various types of permeable pavement in terms of effectiveness to reduce quantity, and improve quality of runoff. Overall, the project will help us decide whether or not to promote the use of these new paving materials on a wider scale.
- In March 2004, TRCA installed a biowall in the head office lobby. This green technology contains an air filtration system that utilizes plants to improve indoor air quality. This reduces the need to draw on outdoor air for ventilation which helps to reduce energy costs associated with heating and cooling of the building. Monitoring of air quality began in 2004 and will continue into 2005.
- We undertook a study to quantify the stormwater and biodiversity benefits of the green roof atop the York University Computer Science building. This rooftop garden insulates the rooftop which improves energy efficiency, reduces the quantity of stormwater runoff and improves water quality. We installed cameras and equipment controls that enable us to monitor the performance of the green roof in real-time. Bringing this technology online allows others to view the green roof and access monitoring data. We also initiated a green roof modelling exercise for the Highland Creek watershed to assess the benefits of implementing green roofs on a large scale. This information will help the City of Toronto evaluate the costs and benefits of implementing green roofs. Project results are showcased at www.sustainabletechnologies.ca.

A consultant design team led by architectsAlliance completed the retrofit design of the existing visitor centre at Kortright. The design of the new facility, to be renamed The Living City Centre, will target a LEED™ platinum rating, the first in Canada. This high standard for a green building supports our efforts to create a world-class facility dedicated to inspiring transformational change toward sustainable city regions.

The Mayors' Megawatt Challenge, The Living City flagship program launched in 2003, completed its first full year. In total, the participating municipalities were able to reduce energy use by 640 kW, and saved 2,617,000 kW-h of electricity – the amount of electricity used by 218 homes in one year! They also saved 6,273 m^3 of natural gas and reduced total greenhouse gas emissions by 1,445 tonnes.

Other 2004 highlights include:

- The Earth Rangers facility, one of the most energy efficient buildings in Canada, opened near the Kortright Centre.
- Greening Health Care engaged a total of 13 hospital corporations representing 23 hospital sites in the GTA. The program focuses on reducing energy use, increasing water efficiency and reducing waste generation.
- We launched the Sustainable Communities Development Program with an initial focus on identifying the attributes of a sustainable community. These attributes will provide a framework for sharing best practices in sustainable community development.
- We signed formal agreements with Environment Canada and the Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement to deliver the Toronto Region Sustainability Program. The program focuses on pollution prevention with small- to medium-sized manufacturers.

- We signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Clean Air Partnership and worked with them to develop a model "Clean Air Plan for The Living City".
- York Region District School Board initiated the Sustainable Schools Program. School boards from across the Toronto region came together to discuss how to improve the design and construction of new schools to create exceptional facilities.
- We submitted a successful proposal to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for an External Research Grant. The research aims to develop an understanding of the barriers to green community design and construction in a local municipality.
- As part of the Green Building Partnership, TRCA supported the training of our first LEED-accredited professional and created a MOU with the Canada Green Building Council – Toronto Chapter. TRCA also participated in municipal workshops for new green building projects.
- TRCA staff participated in the development of the Sustainability Framework developed by TWRC.

■ Watershed Stewardship

In 2004, we engaged more than 20,000 people in stewardship activities. Their contributions included cleaning shorelines and natural areas; reforesting both their own and others' land; planting native trees and shrubs to increase cover and enhance wildlife habitat; creating healthy yards and homes; and learning new behaviours for everyday living.

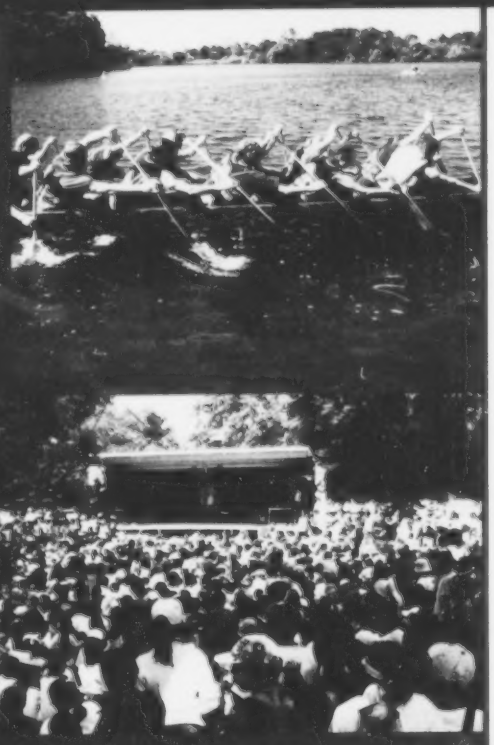
A very diverse cast of volunteers from all ages, cultures and walks of life worked together to create healthy sustainable communities. While their contributions as individuals are modest, collectively they transform our watersheds one footprint at a time.

Many of our stewardship and outreach programs were highlighted within the Healthy Rivers and Shorelines section. These programs support the implementation of the various waterfront and watershed strategies on behalf of our stakeholders. They include the Bartley Smith Greenway project, Duffins and Carruthers Creeks Stewardship Strategy, Malton and Centreville environmental stewardship programs, Rouge River Watershed Stewardship Program and the Frenchman's Bay Watershed Rehabilitation Program.

We are also breaking new ground in areas of stewardship. Here are some highlights:

- The Healthy Yards Alliance worked with TRCA staff to develop the Healthy Yards Program, a Web-based resource (www.trca.on.ca/yards) for residents to find information about local healthy yard services, by-laws, nurseries and more. Together, we created a natural gardens tour in the Town of Markham, numerous workshops, and bookmarks and fact sheets to support the program.
- The completion of the *Preston Lake Management Plan* has provided a unique call-to-action template for ORM kettle lake communities. TRCA worked with the committed residents of Preston Lake to capture the natural heritage values of this community. The management plan prescribes specific ways to strengthen their environmental stewardship role on this unique landscape.
- We began to develop the Peel Rural Water Quality Pilot Program in partnership with the Region of Peel, Credit Valley Conservation, Peel Soil and Crop Association, Peel Federation of Agriculture and the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund. The program provides technical and financial assistance to farmers to support their efforts to connect agriculture with the environment.
- The Multicultural Environmental Stewardship Program successfully developed and implemented a model for a community environmental festival at the

Left: Watershed on Wheels education program. Right, top to bottom: biowall at TRCA; Earth Rangers; The Healthy Yards Program.



"The children liked the scavenger hunt, the wildlife presentation and concert. It was definitely one of the ***best trips*** *that I have been on and I look forward to bringing my class again this June."*

— Ms. J. DiNunzio, St. Kevin Catholic School

Wincott Wetland in the City of Toronto. Through the program, more than 400 new Canadians celebrated wetlands to further support the city's *Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan.*

- We held nine conservation seminars highlighting our conservation areas and resource management tracts. Over 300 people came out to an evening of wilderness and adventure at the annual Hoot and Howl seminars at Claireville Conservation Area and Glen Major Resource Management Tract.

■ Education through Exploration

We are committed to fostering environmental literacy that prepares young people to make a valuable contribution in our society. Our wide selection of engaging, hands-on youth education and stewardship programs allow young people to explore a series of studies, from renewable energy to 19th century Canada, from lakes and rivers to fields and forests. The TRCA Education Group includes the Kortright Centre for Conservation, Black Creek Pioneer Village (BCPV), Education Field Centres (Albion Hills, Claremont and Lake St. George), Watershed on Wheels, Investigating The Living City Spaces and special education events. The Education Group offers enriching overnight, day and outreach programs. Whether for a few hours, or a few days, collectively these programs reached over 193,000 participants in 2004.

With the generous support of our exceptional partners in education, our 2004 highlights include:

- The launch of the Ontario EcoSchools Program, an important TRCA partnership project. A curriculum workshop was hosted at BCPV for over 21 Boards of Education from across the province.
- The development and coordination of an education strategy to mark the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Hazel, including special programs and posters.
- The celebration of the 25th anniversary of Kortright's leadership in education.
- The involvement of over 30 volunteers from across the GTA in our growing Community Education Volunteer Program, built in partnership with the Environmental Volunteer Network.

For over 40 years, the formative experiences gained through the TRCA education programs have proven that being part of the world around you, makes a world of difference! In 2004, we proudly continued to grow this legacy of learning.

■ Archaeology

The Archaeological Resource Management unit had a productive year with two crews working concurrently on 18 field projects and four heritage studies. Program highlights in 2004 include the 28th Boyd Archaeological Field School that produced 40 successful graduates, as well as two large-scale excavations at the Duffins Marsh and at the Claireville Conservation Area, where 10 prehistoric and historic sites were excavated.

■ Conservation Parks

In 2004, Conservation Parks shifted from a recreation-specific focus to integrating environmental education into our park programs. Through partnerships with member municipalities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, we were able to deliver our environmental education message through a wide variety of new and innovative programs.

Partnering with York Region, the City of Vaughan and the Town of Markham, we hosted a regional Smog Summit at Kortright. Participants enjoyed a tour of Kortright's unique renewable energy demonstrations and the new Earth Rangers building.

Helping young children connect with the environment in a personal way teaches them that the environment is an integral part of their lives. Our three main events, the Peel Children's Water Festival, the York Children's Water Festival and Enviro Picnic, attracted over 19,000

elementary school students. Additionally, Earth Rangers sponsored 40 school groups, enabling students to attend a full day of programming at Kortright.

To create new and affordable ways for all people to connect with nature, Conservation Parks launched a two-year "Kids Get in Free" pilot project. Children under the age of 15 receive free general admission on the first weekend of the Maple Syrup Festival and to Glen Haffy Conservation Area all season long!

Despite the unseasonably cool weather, over 500,000 people enjoyed picnics, hikes, camping, swimming and fishing across the GTA. Mountain biking continued to thrive at Albion Hills, with over 4,000 racers competing in a series of endurance races, presented in association with Chico Racing.

A new online camping reservation system made bookings quicker and easier for our customers and substantially reduced our consumption of paper. Twenty per cent of our camping customers now book online.

Almost 10,000 people enjoyed Caledon Canada Day at Albion Hills. This fun-filled, free community event included magicians, clowns, children's games and live bands. The night ended with an awesome display of fireworks that exploded above Lake Albion. The event is made possible through the dedicated efforts of many partners and volunteers.

■ Black Creek Pioneer Village

We turned a new leaf in 2004 at BCPV recovering attendance following SARS. In 2004, visitation reached 145,000, up 2.4 per cent over 2003. BCPV was voted best tourist attraction in the GTA by online voters of toronto.com.

We offered a roster of special events to celebrate cultural diversity including the first Métis Arts Festival in partnership with the Métis Artists Collective. This event showcases music, dance, storytelling, traditional crafts and contemporary visual arts of the Métis community. Other event highlights included a Pioneer Festival, Fall Frolic and Christmas Remembered.

BCPV continued to host the exhibit *The Underground Railroad: Next Stop Freedom* in partnership with Parks Canada and the Ontario Black History Society. BCPV also launched a new program on immigration, Land of Hope. Enriched horticultural programming included garden tours and talks, and Green Thumbs – a Symposium for Garden Enthusiasts.

BCPV began construction on two exciting projects. The Event Pavilion will enable us to offer a wide range of performances and programming. The interactive Hands On Discovery Centre will focus on uses of natural resources. Both facilities open in 2005!

Infrastructure improvements enhance the quality of our programs and our role as stewards of natural and cultural heritage. A gas loop and gas street lights were installed with generous support from Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. and the Friends of Black Creek. This initiative is a giant step forward in the plan to improve energy efficiency. Other projects include restoration of the Mennonite Meeting House, repairs to the Mill flume and the addition of historically accurate architectural details.

To aid in collections preservation, a reproduction of BCPV's rare 1844 sundial was installed in the Doctor's Medicinal Garden. With support from the Friends of Black Creek, two beautiful 19th century reproduction carpets were made for the Doctor's House and Burwick House.

Left, top to bottom: TRCA's Heart Lake Dragon Boat team; Enviro Picnic at Boyd Conservation Area; Christmas by Lamplight at Black Creek Pioneer Village. Right: Camping at Albion Hills Conservation Area.

business excellence

A year of transformation

Left: Osprey

■ 2004 HIGHLIGHTS ■

- Held an all staff personal mastery seminar on personal growth
- Reached 850,000 people through the Environmental Volunteer Network
- Launched an electronic document and records management system
- Adopted our first corporate "green" fleet policy
- The Conservation Foundation raised $2.1 million supporting the work of TRCA

■ Corporate Services

In 2004, we embarked on a voyage of rediscovery and redefinition. By looking at the needs of our stakeholders, by ensuring transparency in process and by enhancing our financial stewardship, we transformed our organizational structure, our leadership model and our processes. Some highlights include:

- Major enhancements to improve the network infrastructure linking almost 200 staff at four TRCA office locations.
- Launch of TRCA's electronic document and records management system. This will greatly increase productivity in terms of document handling, search time and information management.
- Installation of 85 new PCs, as well as major updates to the network backbone and the Novell servers for greater workstation power.
- Policy updates including purchasing, employee expenses and *Freedom of Information and Privacy* to ensure consistent and streamlined guidelines for staff.
- An all-staff personal mastery seminar on personal accountabilities and growth.
- Approval of an organizational restructure and augmentation of the senior leadership team, with implementation ongoing in 2005.
- A comparative process to study salary benchmarks and to decrease benefit costs to ensure we are competitive in the marketplace.
- Lease of the office space at Downsview Park, an agency which shares TRCA's sustainability goals.

Overall, 2004 was a great year for saving our outside greenspaces that are so much a part of life in the Toronto region and a leading indicator of an environmental renaissance.

Left: TRCA head office. Right, top to bottom: agriculture in the Duffins and Carruthers Creek watershed; cleanup at TRCA head office; William R. Livingston with honour roll recipient Janet van Nostrand.

■ Sustainability Management System

The Sustainability Management System (SMS) (previously called the Environmental Management System) enables us to track indicators of operational sustainability and report to our stakeholders. The SMS tracks organizational progress in three areas: economic, social and environmental. However, to date, only environmental targets have been set.

TRCA recognizes that our daily operations can negatively impact the environment. The use of our vehicle and equipment fleet, our energy consumption, the products we buy, how we manage our lands and what we do with our waste all must become more sustainable. What follows is an assessment of our performance in 2004.

TRCA adopted its first corporate "green" fleet policy, which commits to the proper use of more sustainable vehicles that consume less energy and renewable forms of energy where possible. Also under **transportation**, we began overhauling fuel distribution facilities for a test of biodiesel in 2005. Although, for the third consecutive year fleet mileage increased at TRCA necessitating a greater focus on trip reduction in 2005, fuel economy has improved.

With respect to **energy consumption**, BCPV underwent a substantial conversion to high efficiency lighting in its visitors centre. We implemented similar lighting changes at the Albion Hills Field Centre. Also, TRCA continues to purchase about 10 per cent of its electrical energy through Ontario Power Generation's Green Power Program.

We continued our mandatory "green" **procurement** policy, which requires staff to purchase only sustainable products in various categories. We also began to purchase eco-friendly cleaning products at all locations.

Efforts towards managing **waste** included acquiring composters for staff use at all locations, and the drafting of a new waste disposal contract for 2005. The new contract calls for greater capabilities for recycling and for dealing with visitor waste at our public facilities.

As well, staff at Claremont Field Centre designed and installed a new composting and biodiesel facility. They have incorporated it into the educational curriculum to illustrate the process involved in making biofuels.

As for **land management**, Boyd Conservation Area ceased mowing and maintaining various areas in order to increase habitat areas in the park. SMS goals to develop a policy and procedures for dealing with agricultural operations on TRCA owned land were not achieved. In 2005, we will study the role of agriculture in The Living City and this effort will resume.

Finally, 2004 boasted significant progress towards the design of two new "green" buildings on TRCA lands – The Living City Centre at the Kortright Centre for Conservation, and the new nursery/regeneration centre in the Boyd complex.

People Powering Conservation

The **Environmental Volunteer Network (EVN)**, a 27-member group of environmental organizations led by TRCA, works to enhance environmental volunteerism in the GTA. By increasing diversity, it fosters network building and management competence.

In 2004, EVN worked with TRCA partners to develop new volunteer programs including Diversity Competence, Volunteer Education Activity Leader Program and Community Environmental Monitors. Year two of EVN also saw the launch of the Mentorship Program, under which 12 TRCA staff mentor 12 internationally trained environmental professionals and the first-ever Environmental Career Fair for New Canadians.

Here are just a few 2004 highlights:

- EVN reached 850,000 people via Web site, events, media coverage, materials and LISTSERV distribution.
- We recruited 500+ new volunteers (30,000+ volunteer hours).
- The Volunteer Tracks newsletter reached 500+ people.
- We printed and distributed 1,000 copies of *The Guide to Finding Paid and Volunteer Work.*
- EVN hired 22 volunteers, including 11 at TRCA.

We also welcomed new partners including the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council, Accessible Community Counselling and Employment Services, COSTI, JobStart and New Experiences for Newcomer Women.

With new funding from the Ontario Network of the Canada Volunteerism Initiative and the Toronto Community Foundation, TRCA's work will serve as a model for the industry and continue progress with our 2005 efforts.

The Recognition Awards Program, adopted in 1976, pays tribute to those who have made a significant contribution to the work of TRCA.

The Honour Roll Awards were given out on June 10, 2004, at a special supporter recognition event held at BCPV. Recipients included the Duffins Creek and Carruthers Creek Watershed Task Forces, Thomas E. Barber, Janet van Nostrand, Mark Wilson, and Bob and Lyn MacMillan. Our more than 600 volunteers were also recognized for their tremendous support.

The Service Recognition Awards are based on years of service – three, six and 10 years for members and volunteers; and 10, 15 and 25 years for staff. In 2004, we updated the recognition policy to include members of TRCA's watershed committees. The following awards were given:

Three-year silver logo pins: Susan DiMarco, Anthony Ketchum, Ian Sinclair, Tanny Wells, Rob Ford, Suzan Hall, Peter Milczyn, Bill O'Donnell and Dave Ryan. Six-year gold logo pins and lifetime passes: Cliff Gyles, Irene Jones, Pam McConnell, Ron Moeser, Bas Balkissoon and David Barrow. Also, a big "thank you" to Gordon Joyce and Stanley Shortt, who received lifetime passes for six years of service to the Conservation Foundation.

Recognition/Employee Suggestion Award Subcommittee:

Chair: Gerri Lynn O'Connor
Members: David Barrow, Maja Prentice and Dick O'Brien.

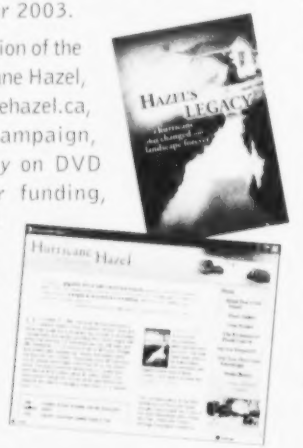
"I have found volunteering with TRCA a ***wonderful experience****...the chance to upgrade my technical skills but to also meet and network with different people. TRCA* ***believes in diversity*** *and has provided great opportunities to a number of foreign trained professionals."*

— Johan Zeb, TRCA volunteer

Marketing and Communications

With conservation issues so prevalent in 2004, we had plenty of opportunity to communicate our messages. Here are some highlights:

- Among many marketing products, we produced and distributed *Paths to The Living City: the Story of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority*. Bill McLean, author and previous TRCA general manager, signed copies at the book launch, held in conjunction with the recognition awards, where more than 200 people attended.
- Our Web site news item, poll, showcase section and other exciting projects featured on the Web kept people coming back — 742,078 unique visitors were tracked, a 36 per cent increase over 2003.
- In leading the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Hazel, we launched www.hurricanehazel.ca, coordinated a media campaign, produced *Hazel's Legacy* on DVD and VHS with sponsor funding, and prepared material to support education programs. All of these efforts were shared with our partnering conservation authorities to ensure a clear, consistent message was communicated across Ontario.



- We saw a significant increase in positive media coverage in print, radio and television showing that media attention around environmental issues is on the rise.

Left, top to bottom: plaque unveiling for the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Hazel; Bill McLean; William R. Livingston, Mayor David Miller and Jean-Michel Cousteau at the Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner; HSBC Bank Canada planting.

Conservation Foundation

A key to the success of the Conservation Foundation's fundraising efforts is its network of corporate volunteers. They believe so strongly in The Living City cause and the achievements of the Conservation Foundation that they volunteer their valuable time as part of our Corporate Cabinet, to raise money for the important work of TRCA.

In 2004, we increased the Corporate Cabinet membership adding representatives from HSBC Bank Canada, Home Depot Canada, RBC Dominion Securities Inc., KBSH Capital Management and others.

In total, the Conservation Foundation raised more than $2.1 million, which supported TRCA's work in reforestation, education and sustainable communities. Some highlights include:

- In partnership with HSBC Bank Canada we created 7.5 hectares of new forest in the Claireville Conservation Area. As part of this project, HSBC Bank Canada jointly hosted an employee and family planting day where 150 people planted over 850 trees and shrubs.
- With funding of $230,000 from Home Depot Canada we began to develop The Home Energy Clinic™, a one-stop Web service for homeowners to help them make easy changes that will lower their energy use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide a more comfortable home to live in and save them money!
- Our first bequest of $106,364 was received to our Planned Giving Program. The program provides an opportunity for people to leave a green legacy for their children and future generations.
- The Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner and silent auction, our signature fundraising gala, raised over $78,000. Keynote speaker, Jean-Michel Cousteau, delivered an inspiring speech and video presentation to over 700 people from businesses, government and the community, and 38 sponsors.

Grant Thornton LLP
Chartered Accountants
Management Consultants1w

15 Allstate Parkway, Suite 200
Markham, Ontario L3R 5B4
T (416) 366-0100
F (905) 475-8906
E Markham@GrantThornton.ca
W www.GrantThornton.ca
Canadian Member of Grant Thornton International

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AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

The accompanying summarized statements of financial position and financial activities and deficit are derived from the complete financial statements of the **Toronto and Region Conservation Authority** as at December 31, 2004 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation dated March 18, 2005. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of the Authority's management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the Authority's financial position and results of financial activities and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

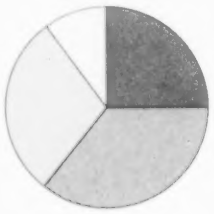
The comparative figures for 2003 were derived from statements which were reported by another firm of chartered accountants.

Grant Thornton LLP

Markham, Canada
March 18, 2005

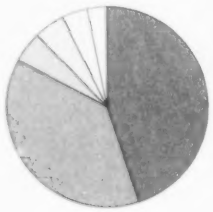
Grant Thornton LLP
Chartered Accountants

BROAD PROGRAM AREAS



Expenditures

Conservation Land Management	25%
Watershed Health	36%
Conservation and Education Programs	29%
Corporate Services and Other	10%



Revenue

Municipal Funding	45%
Fees, Sales, Rentals and Contract Services	38%
All Other Sources	5%
Provincial Funding	5%
Conservation Foundation	4%
Federal Funding	3%

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

While 2003 was noteworthy for the decline in our revenue base, mostly due to SARS and the softening of the tourism market, 2004 was equally significant for the remarkable rebounding of revenues. In total, revenue for TRCA programs largely dependent on admissions reached 98 per cent of targets in 2004, compared to 91 per cent in 2003, a swing of almost $550,000.

The new development services fee structure fully implemented in 2004 produced revenues that exceeded budget by $565,000, continuing to narrow the gap with the actual cost of providing these services.

These improved revenues together with curtailment of expenditures, mostly through gapping of positions, allowed TRCA to reduce its cumulative deficit by $38,722 to $436,673 and improve its reserves by $1.255 million to $3.482 million, positioning itself more favourably in the event of a major downturn in the economy.

TRCA continued to benefit from the support of its municipal partners who provided a 10 per cent increase in municipal levy.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Summarized Statement of Financial Activities and Deficit
Year Ended December 31

	2004 Budget	2004 Actual	2003 Actual
Expenditures:			
Watershed management and health monitoring	$ 8,241,500	$ 7,082,978	$ 5,585,189
Environmental advisory services	2,797,100	2,836,953	2,142,279
Watershed stewardship	8,381,800	6,464,585	5,448,776
Conservation land management, development and acquisition	19,017,500	11,161,540	9,218,912
Conservation and education programming	13,355,600	12,884,394	11,509,573
Corporate services	4,633,800	4,307,348	4,073,014
Vehicle and equipment, net of usage charged	-	(61,133)	33,328
	56,427,300	44,676,665	38,011,071
Revenue:			
Municipal			
Levies	26,081,800	20,475,804	17,938,773
Other	3,076,100	397,280	881,313
Government grants			
MNR transfer payments	845,800	845,753	845,753
Provincial – other	1,919,550	1,596,211	1,484,291
Federal	1,122,250	1,372,434	788,874
Authority generated			
User fees, sales and admissions	10,405,800	10,611,086	8,701,344
Contract services	591,400	946,146	1,048,646
Interest income	325,000	356,051	364,839
Proceeds from sale of properties	226,700	122,850	12,675
The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto	1,583,200	1,621,604	1,378,319
Donations and fundraising	962,500	1,121,284	454,192
Facility and property rentals	2,247,700	2,139,246	1,478,331
Canada Post Corporation agreement	80,000	28,116	7,883
Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation	6,165,000	3,529,545	2,286,163
Sales and property tax refunds	55,000	261,875	123,167
Sundry	518,500	544,926	507,317
	56,206,300	45,970,211	38,301,880
Increase (decrease) in fund balance	(221,000)	1,293,546	290,809
Appropriations (to) from reserves	321,000	(1,254,824)	(15,743)
	100,000	38,722	275,066
Deficit, beginning of year	(475,395)	(475,395)	(750,461)
Deficit, end of year	$ (375,395)	$ (436,673)	$ (475,395)

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Summarized Statement of Financial Position
December 31

	2004	2003
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 7,892,709	$ 4,630,510
Marketable securities	4,692,994	5,972,541
Accounts receivable	5,250,755	4,854,192
Inventory	583,306	595,897
Prepaid expenses	355,093	277,802
	$ 18,774,857	$ 16,330,942
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 4,752,505	$ 4,478,848
Deferred revenue		
Municipal levies	6,328,056	5,441,231
Capital, special projects and other	4,649,454	4,659,567
Vacation pay and sick leave entitlements	1,334,214	1,215,911
	17,064,229	15,795,557
Fund Balances:		
Reserves	3,481,515	2,226,691
Deficit	(436,673)	(475,395)
	3,044,842	1,751,296
Amounts to be funded in future years	(1,334,214)	(1,215,911)
	1,710,268	535,385
	$ 18,774,857	$ 16,330,942

On behalf of the Authority

Dick O'Brien, Chair

Brian Denney, Secretary-Treasurer

THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES AND MEMBERS 2004

(January 30, 2004 – December 31, 2004)

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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM

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G. L. O'Connor *
D. Ryan *

CITY OF TORONTO

M. Augimeri *
B. Balkissoon
G. Cowbourne
G. De Baeremaeker
F. Di Giorgio (Jan. 30/04 – Sept. 24/04)
F. Ford *
P. Gough (Sept. 24/04 – Dec. 31/04)
D. Gurin
S. Hall *
C. Jenkins
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D. O'Brien (Chair) *
S. Petrie
A. Schulz
M. Thompson

*Executive Committee Members

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

D. Barrow *
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